
THE
REVOLUTION.
CANTO I.

REVOLUTION

CANTON

THE
FIRST CANTO
OF THE
REVOLUTION:
AN
EPIC POEM.

*Baccare Frontem
Cingite, ne vati noceat mala Lingua futuro.*

VIRGIL.

By CHARLES CRAWFORD, Esq.

L O N D O N:

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THE
FIRST CAMPAIGN
OF THE
REVOLUTION
IN
AFRICA
BY
E. P. C. P. O. M.

By CHARLES CRAWFORD
LONDON
1857

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE First of Twelve Cantos, which the Author purposes to write on his subject, is here offered to the Public. He did not publish them all at once, because he thought that so voluminous a work would scarcely invite the attention of many Readers. The generality are too indolent to engage in the labor of investigating a production so extensive. On the other hand, he thought that if the First Canto met with applause, they would be beguiled to attend to the succeeding Eleven.

E R R A T A.

Line 227, for *Obid*, read *Ohio*.

267, for *hamper'd*, read *pamper'd*.

Lately published by the same Author.

A DISSERTATION on the PHÆDON of PLATO, or
Dialogue of the Immortality of the Soul; with some
general Observations upon the Writings of that Philosopher.
—SOPHRONIA and HILARIO, an ELEGY.

A R G U M E N T

O F T H E

FIRST CANTO.

THE Poem opens at the Accession of JAMES the Second to the Throne of *Great-Britain*.—Singular Character of my Lord SHAFTESBURY, who had opposed his Accession, particularly delineated.—Character of JAMES touched on.—His Devotedness to Theological Hatred.—The Palace of *Theological Hatred*, where *Malice, Self-Conceit, Folly, Ignorance, Credulity, &c.* attend as Ministers, is described in Allegory.—JAMES, Duke of *Monmouth*, the illegitimate Son of CHARLES the Second, (but who pretended that he was legitimate, and consequently had aspired to the Regal Power) invades *England* with an intent to dethrone his Kinsman JAMES the Second.

I SING the Hero, whose auspicious arms
Drove from the *British* Realm a Tyrant King,
Hated by those he rul'd ;—whom *England* hail'd
Her great Protector from her foes abroad,
5 The Guardian, Father of her sacred laws ;
Whence the fam'd Line of BRUNSWICK fills her throne,
And all her glory, all her blessings rise.——

I woo nor thee, thou Goddess, heav'nly bright !
Fair Muse, who beauteous whilom didst inspire
10 The great MÆONIDES, or MARO's pen :
Nor thee, who gav'st thine aid of later years
To him, great Bard, *Britannia's* boasted pride,

B

Majestic

Line 3.]—It may not be unnecessary to observe, that the Author mentions the word *England* for the sake merely of accuracy and truth, and not to indulge any invidious passion for national reflections.—He means to avoid such reflections through his work.—*England*, it is very well known, submitted herself to the Government of WILLIAM, upon his landing, while *Ireland* and *Scotland* for some time after opposed him.

- Majestic MILTON ; who, in verse no less
 Sublime, a theme unsung before display'd :
 15 But thee, who fairer, lovelier to mine eyes,
 In these our days thine inspiration gav'st
 To him still greater, as his page shines forth
 With equal poetry, with better sense,
 VOLTAIRE ;—come ! o'ershadow me with thy wings,
 20 Whence I may brood on thoughts so truly great,
 That when they quicken into lofty verse,
 Attentive Kings may tremble while they read,
 And trembling learn ; the People too give ear,
 While calm and unimpassion'd, but from thee,
 25 What each should shun destructive to their peace,
 What best pursue, I sing ;—the ravish'd ear
 Delighting thus, while to the inmost heart
 I pour instruction sound.—Thus wisely they,
 Who minister to peevish ailing child,
 30 Place honey round the cup to guile his fears,
 When he receives the healing draught, compos'd
 Of wormwood, or of other nauseous drug.

 From thy sublime abode, the Heav'n of Heav'ns,
 Where radiant at th' Almighty's feet thou sit'st,
 35 In all the dazzling majesty of light,

 Descend,

Descend, fair Truth ! and guide thy Poet's pen,
 While he recounts, in never-dying verse,
 Great WILLIAM's fame ;—the Muses and their train
 'Tis true he courts, enamour'd of their grace :
 40 On thee and on thy steps they shall attend,
 Thine Handmaids, not thy beauteous modest form
 With arts adult'rate to disguise or daub :
 But with a pure ingenuous skill to deck
 Thy simple charms, and make them as the charms
 45 Of Virgin, who no garish colour throws
 On native beauty, till to mortal sight,
 Like her, thou altogether shalt become
 Attractive, irresistible, divine.

The Laws perverted from their sacred sense ;—
 50 Religion banish'd from her simple shrine,
 While gorgeous Superstition sat array'd
 In all her pomp absurd, and trappings vain ;
 Reign'd JAMES the Second ;—of imperious cast,
 Vindictive, fullen, merciless, and proud.
 55 The harsh oppressions of his bloody reign
 Some few foresaw ;—a daring weighty Band !
 Each art they tried, each active sinew strain'd,
 To keep him from the throne ;---their pious care

- Of *Britain's* welfare nurs'd the bold design.
- 60 Foremost of those, engag'd in this attempt,
 Stood SHAFTESBURY, the politic and wife;—
 He in the Senate strove with all the pow'rs
 Which Eloquence can give to manly sense,
 For his exclusion:—great, excentric Man!
- 65 Whom lavish Nature gave such talents rare,
 That as he pleas'd he could preserve a State,
 Or sink it into naught: in the last reign
 He serv'd the Court;—and in the curs'd Cabal,
 A set of dangerous men, was most corrupt:
- 70 There such insidious, deep-laid schemes he plan'd
 For Despotism, that, had they been pursu'd,
 Freedom in *Britain* would have liv'd no more.—
 Pale and aghast awhile her Genius stood,
 And trembled for her safety; strange to tell!
- 75 At the same time so fram'd were his decrees
 As Chancellor, that Envy could not find
 A flaw in one, although her jaundic'd eye
 She strain'd in search malignant;—when he judg'd,
 Wisdom and Justice sat on either hand.
- 80 Virtue in him when he the Goddess woo'd,

All

Line 61.] This was the father of the Lord SHAFTESBURY, who wrote the Characteristics.

All amiable, all resistless seem'd ;
 While Vice and Error no aversion rais'd,
 Grac'd by the splendid fallacy of Wit.
 Fix'd to no system, in his active mind
 85 Naught rose to curb Ambition ; for he deem'd
 Religion priestcraft, Virtue but a name.
 The tool, the pliant instrument, with which
 This daring restless Spirit chose to play,
 Was MONMOUTH :—him he falsely dar'd avow
 90 The legal offspring of the Second CHARLES,
 And bad him to his Father's throne aspire,
 In bold defiance of his Uncle's claim.—
 Protracting thus a web which he design'd
 On one or th' other in its fatal thread
 95 T' enfold, entangle, or destroy ;—endued
 With ev'ry soft insinuating art
 That could intriguing Politician wish ;—
 Deep-read in all the mazes of the soul,
 His tongue led captive those he wish'd to win,
 100 And work'd them to his will. In ev'ry plan
 Advent'rous, diligent, intrepid, firm ;
 A dang'rous Enemy ;—a dang'rous Friend.
 Unsatisfied with dull ignoble ease,
 His breast dilated, and his eye grew bright,

105 When danger was at hand, when uproar rag'd,
 Or when with rugged voice the tempest howl'd.
 They gave him action, which he thought was Fame.

Ambitious MONMOUTH, easy, vain, unwise,
 Was led by his resistless Eloquence,
 110 As is the vessel by the rapid flood :
 That Eloquence wont like the stream to flow
 Of some great river, urging all it meets,
 And in its smoothness veiling all its strength :
 That Eloquence charm'd heedless MONMOUTH most
 115 When it dwelt flatt'ring on th' imperial theme,
 And drove him to his fate.—The river's course
 Thus seems still smoother, as it nearer draws
 To the dread cataract : in gallant trim
 The splendid vessel cuts the glassy wave ;
 120 Then, lo ! is whirl'd upon the shelving rock
 Dash'd ;—or falls buried in the nether deep.—

Such was the Man, thus gifted, thus adorn'd,
 Who nobly strove, while CHARLES was on the throne,
 'Gainst the succession of the Second JAMES.—
 125 With many an argument of sterling sense,
 With many an apt allusion, he declaim'd

On

On all the miseries which *Scotland* felt,
 Since its subjection to his ruthless sway ;—
 In terms severe spake of his fatal zeal
 130 To Popery ;—then expatiated much
 On the relentless temper of his mind,
 Which nor could pity nor forgive ;—and told
 That once he gaz'd, as with supreme delight,
 On the dire agonizing pains of one
 135 That writh'd in torture ;—then would raise his note,
 While indignation flash'd from either eye,
 And ev'ry hearer sympathiz'd his rage.
 “ What ! when ye know full-well a serpent stings
 “ With deadly venom, will ye to your breasts

“ Re-

*Line 127.]—*JAMES was entrusted, during the life of CHARLES the Second, with the Government of *Scotland*.—His administration of that kingdom was scarcely inferior, in Tyranny and Cruelty, to NERO's administration of *Rome*.—The following fact (as related by Mr. Hume) may be urged in support of the assertion.—
 “ Three Women were once seized, and upon their refusing a customary Oath
 “ which was tendered to them, to abjure a certain Declaration, were condemned
 “ to a capital punishment by drowning. One of them was an elderly woman ;
 “ the other two were very young ; one eighteen years of age, the other only
 “ thirteen. Even these violent Persecutors were ashamed to put the youngest to
 “ death : but the other two were conducted to the place of execution, and were
 “ tied to stakes within the sea-mark at low water ; a contrivance which rendered
 “ their death lingering and dreadful.—Strange, that Scholars of refined ingenuity
 should find no better exercise for their talents than in extenuating the crimes of so
 detestable a Tyrant !

140 " Receive th' accursed thing !—Is it not more
 " The part of courage, and the part of sense,
 " To crush it, that it cause no further ill ?

Tho' thus the People he inflam'd 'gainst JAMES
 (Whether by virtue guided, or revenge,
 145 Is dubious to the faithful Muse ; for he
 Thro' whim was wicked, and thro' whim was good :)
 Yet, when his Brother's eyes were clos'd in death,
 JAMES seiz'd the throne, not only unoppos'd,
 But to the seeming universal joy
 150 Of the whole Kingdom ;—Faction seem'd extinct ;
 While ev'ry Party, ev'ry zealous Sect,
 Strove which should best pursue the fawning arts
 Of adulation ;—their addressees teem'd
 With blandishments, which none but Slaves should use,
 155 And none but Tyrants hear ;—e'en they, his foes,
 Who wish'd to keep him from the throne, appear'd
 To forward, or to join the gen'ral shout.
 Pernicious fickleness ! detested love
 Of novelty !—from which the wise are free.
 160 When JAMES perceiv'd each fond, each sanguine wish
 Of his ambition fully gratified ;—
 When he perceiv'd that on the throne he sat

Without

Without a foe, or one who dar'd avow
 His enmity ;—he loosely then indulg'd
 165 The long-adopted and the curs'd intent,
 The fatal tenets of the Romish Church
 To introduce :—rash, destructive thought !
 A tyrant He, another Tyrant's nod
 Implicitly obey'd, and at his shrine
 170 Daily with pray'rs of adoration bow'd ;
 His shrine, more horrid than was that accurs'd
 Of Moloch, whom the Ammonite ador'd
 Whilom in Rabbah : nathless he alone
 Urg'd ev'ry deed, and dwelt in ev'ry thought.—

175 Far from the chearful precincts of the day,
 Where Chaos reigns o'er matter's formless mass
 Wild arbiter, upon his murky throne
 The grim, abominable, Monarch sits
 In rayless majesty.—Various the slaves
 180 Which, at his voice terrific, prostrate fall.—
 Here Malice, eldest-born of Hell, attends,

D

His

Line 181.—It may not be disagreeable to some, that I should point out the meaning through this allegory.—Malice, Self-Conceit, Folly, Fear, &c. are said to be attendants upon Theological Hatred, because bigots, or people addicted

His faithful Minister : one while intent
 He seems to ruminate on some offence;
 And then he grins with a suspicious smile,
 185 Pleas'd at the ill he meditates within.—
 Here prim Conceit with supercilious air :
 That eye, which seems enamour'd of himself,
 He scarce, but in contempt, on others throws.—
 Here Folly, with his dull unlustrous eye,
 190 Not staring, as he's wont, with simp'ring smile,
 But heavy, phlegmatic.—Here pallid Fear,
 With undilated breast, unfinew'd limb,
 As if she skulk'd and trembled at the wind.—
 Here steril Ignorance, with looks profound,
 195 And now again gaping with lifted hand
 And stupid face, which manifest surprise
 At Nature's common works.—Her daughter here,
 From her and Folly sprung, a monstrous birth !
 Credulity attends : her downcast air,
 200 Her modest, unassuming speech, attract

The

to theological hatred, are generally malicious, self-conceited, foolish, timid, &c.—The ideal monster is describ'd as being deficient in eyes, because such people do not see things clearly ;—as scarcely having any ear, because they do not much attend to the arguments of others ;—and as having a loud voice, because they generally stun others with their noise and impetuosity.

- The world's regard ; but, like Pandora's Box,
 (Which whilom Poets fancied in their song)
 The Siren gives, in distribution dire,
 Each ill which can infest the race of man.
- 205 Close by the ghastly Monarch's side she stands,
 Before her Dam, before her Sire preferr'd,
 The great, the first supporter of his throne.—
 Here too scowls Obstinacy.—Guilty Rage
 Here fumes with outcry harsh, and ruffled mien.—
- 210 And Slaughter here, unseemly fiend, attends :
 The gormand pants with eagerness to know,
 Whither, like rav'nous vultur, she may fly ;
 Where hideous raise aloft her tow'ring crest,
 And grimly smile ; where flesh her monstrous maw,
- 215 Her eye all blood-shot, and her mouth all gore ;
 And joyous where may flap her crimson wing,
 Her foot in hell, her head above the earth.—
 Here to their Sov'reign, plac'd in dread array,
 These odious beings glad obedience give,
- 220 The firm supporters of his horrid throne.
 Without an eye, and scarce with any ear,
 The Tyrant Monster sits ; but with a mouth
 Huge and prepos't'rous in his dismal face,
 In which his fangs enormous grinning stand,

And

- 225 And whence a voice is heard to issue forth
 More hideous than the noise of Indians fierce,
 On the Ohio's or Missouri's banks,
 When to their foes they yell the song of war ;
 Or than at dread Niàgra, when from high
- 230 The cataract immense, stupendous fall !
 Roars, dashing, foaming, thund'ring on the rocks ;
 Or on their hinges when the triple gates
 Of Erebus, brass, iron, adamant,
 Compàges huge ! harsh thunder grate aloud.—
- 235 Vast is his empire : he o'er all the globe
 (Save a few little nations, scarcely known)
 Holds, or has holden, fell despotic sway,
 Baneful as famine, grim as ruthless war,
 Dire as the plague, and terrible as hell.—
- 240 To scourge mankind, among them Priests he sends,
 A cursed band ; tyrannic, prone to ill,
 Lazy, unclean ; that from each happy State
 Should be cast forth, as were the beasts obscene
 From Noah's ark ;—whom thy lone pleasure charms,
- 245 Onan accurst !—hating the nuptial bond,
 Yet one for th' other burning with a lust
 Detestable ;—or hypocrites, or fools,
 Or sensualists, or rigidly severe ;—

From

- The most, howe'er, Circè's sleek votaries,
 250 Batt'ning, like vermin, in the dung of sloth,
 Think life, think reason was bestow'd for naught,
 Save but to gormandize, to swill, to doze ;—
 From whom good cannot come, but evil oft ;—
 Devoid of all those elegant desires,
 255 Those polish'd manners, and that social ease,
 Which Woman only, lovely Woman ! gives ;—
 Estrang'd from all the relatives of life,
 Which humanize the soul by tender thoughts ;—
 With minds more sullen than their college gloom,
 260 From which if hapless they come forth, they prove
 The plagues of families, communities.—
 Of gold tenacious ;—cowards, selfish, mean,
 Ambitious, cruel, proud ;—giv'n to revenge
 Deliberate, which nothing can appease.
 265 They harbour passions vile as their descent :
 The poor they spurn, obsequious to the rich ;

E

Preachers

Line 257.—It is not injudiciously observed by some writers, that the cruelty of the Roman-Catholic Priests (whom the Author here satyrises) is somewhat increased by their celibacy.—It cannot be denied, that the soft endearments of a wife, and the tender subjection of a child, have a wonderful efficacy in mollifying the heart of man.

- Preachers of slav'ry;—glozing hamper'd Pow'r
 With all the smooth, the candied courtesy,
 The fawning tricks, of scoundrel minions.—
- 270 But if some rare, ingenuous, youth effulge,
 Thy boast, O Genius! and fair Virtue's son,
 And talk of Liberty; with outcry strait
 They hoot the daring Rebel from their sect.
 (Thus, when sweet Philomel at evening hour
- 275 Enters a grove, a mould'ring abbey near,
 Lur'd by the melancholy green retreat,
 And pleas'd, enraptur'd, tunes his little voice;
 If from th' adjacent tow'r the screech-owls rush
 With horrid noise, and shake their heavy wings,
- 280 Vex'd at the glorious music of his throat;
 Sudden the beauteous charmer takes his flight
 To happier groves, where he may chaunt at ease,
 And make them all harmonious to his song.)
 Unfit for gen'rous friendship;—teeming naught
- 285 But cant, fraud, craft, dissimulation, lies;
 Heav'n on their tongues, but hell within their hearts;—
 To serve a pious purpose, using oft
 Assassination, poison'd sacraments;—worse,
 More horrid monsters, than the poets feign'd
- 290 The Harpies that of yore Æneas vex'd,

And

- And all his crew, upon the Strophades,
 Isles in th' Ionic sea, from whom they snatch'd
 Part of their food, and what they left defil'd.—
 Altho' from dismal hell a fiend as black
 295 As ever sprang, from heav'n he nathless boasts
 His high original.—When Satan erst,
 And all his host, rebelling 'gainst His pow'r,
 Were by th' Omnipotent cast forth from heav'n;
 Sin with her Sire the great apostate fell,
 300 Of whom (made wanton thro' despair and rage)
 He soon became enamour'd,—and pursu'd.
 She, not averse, to his incestuous lust
 Yielded herself:—from their embraces foul,
 While ev'ry serpent in her bestial train
 305 Around them twin'd, and in discordance hiss'd,
 This monster came.—Hell startled at his sight,
 But soon grew pleas'd with the portentous birth.
 The Mother and the Sire their griev'd Cub
 In fondness cherish'd, and him hand in hand
 310 With Death they took, and to the new-found world
 Guided their fatal steps: Thus vaunting he
 Boasts his descent celestial, tho' Heav'n
 Disgorg'd his dev'lish ancestry, long while

Ere

Ere he created was.—His origin

- 315 Is this, which now the Muse benign has told;—
This is his image;—his dispose is this;—
And **HATED** **Theological** his name.

Urg'd by this Dæmon, from his feeble hands,
Unsuited to the grasp, the scepter soon

- 320 Would have been wrench'd; for ne'er the multitude
Will brook an open insult on their faith:
Who make it are unwise; for then they storm
Like *Ætna* or *Vesuvius*, when convuls'd
They belch forth monstrous flames of liquid fire

- 325 Terrific, blasting.—Soon would he have fall'n,
If **MONMOUTH** had not by a fatal step
Their rage diverted, and their murmurs hush'd.—
On the discovery of the much-fam'd plot,
Thro' which a **RUSSEL** and a **SIDNEY** bled,

- 330 (Illustrious names! to *England* ever dear!)
MONMOUTH was banish'd;—no severer doom
A Father's partial fondness could inflict:—
And to the self-same place he had retir'd,
Where bold **ARGYLE** his deep resentment fed

- 335 'Gainst haughty **JAMES**;—thro' whom, when Duke of *York*,

He

He was attainted : whence Revenge alone
 Dwelt in his thoughts, and in his fiery soul
 Had stifled Prudence, and had buried Fear.
 With griefs dejected—in ambition, fame,
 340 Baffled and disappointed, MONMOUTH wish'd
 For nothing save retirement, where his years
 He with his faithful WENTWORTH might consume,
 In love, in peace, in tender sympathy :
 But the fierce rage of the much-injur'd Scot
 345 Call'd forth again Ambition's latent seeds ;
 His soul again panted for warlike acts,
 And from collision waxed into flame.
 " O MONMOUTH! (oft ARGYLE was wont to say)
 " Wilt thou thus tamely brook each various ill,

F

" A

*Line 335.]—*The Earl of ARGYLE had been persecuted by JAMES, and was at last attainted through his means, for saying, when he took the Test in *Scotland*,
 " That he took it so far as it was consistent with itself; and that he meant not
 " to preclude himself in a lawful way from endeavouring to make alterations in
 " Church and State, so far as they were consistent with his Religion and Loyalty."

*Line 341.]—*Lady WENTWORTH, bewitched with the elegance of MONMOUTH's person, his valour, and the other numberless generous qualities of his soul, which are irresistible to a Female mind of sensibility, had deserted her Friends Country, and all that is generally and vulgarly thought dear to a Woman, for the purpose of enjoying with him the ineffable pleasures of a warm and constant Love.

- 350 " A Tyrant, cruel thro' his fear, shall cast
 " Upon your persecuted head? Reflect,
 " That by his hand, from home, from ev'ry place
 " Which bears the fair conveniencies of life,
 " Thou art thrust forth: Fame, Fortune, Rank, are fled—
 355 " Can Life be worth thy care? These peaceful thoughts,
 " This fond desire to court retired ease,
 " Give to the winds! assume a manlier tone!
 " Let us no more from land to land be driv'n,
 " Like caitiffs whom their Country vomits forth
 360 " For deeds of criminality, the ruff,
 " The ulcers of creation.—At our call
 " Thousands are ready for revolt. Come then,
 " My Friend, my Sovereign that perhaps shalt be,
 " Let us attempt the Tyrant to chastise;
 365 " Let us await the hazard of the die;
 " It makes us Heroes—or it makes us naught;
 " It gives a brave revenge—or glorious death.
 " Thrice happy they! who in the battle's din,
 " When the loud trumpet animates the soul
 370 " To deeds of pith, when o'er the crimson field
 " In nobly-dreadful pomp Confusion stalks,
 " In their dear Country's cause with glory fall!

" Death

“ Death here they meet, whom ev’ry one must meet,
 “ In his most pleasing shape, (O, better far
 375 “ Than when he comes to the pale trembling wretch,
 “ Tortur’d and torn by some disease obscene,
 “ With slow, but dreadful step !): the gen’rous Bard
 “ Catches their names, and tunes them to his lyre;
 “ And Heav’n receives them to peculiar bliss.”

380 By these deserted, and by those oppress’d,
 Harrafs’d; driv’n forth, forlorn, from place to place,
 Like a poor hunted deer;—yet finding none
 But where his haughty Uncle’s malice, still
 Implacable, pursued, and still disturb’d;
 385 By fierce ARGYLE’s inflaming voice urg’d on;
 By other rash unweeting Friends advis’d;
 MONMOUTH resolv’d, in an unlucky hour,
 The Kingdom to invade—vain, crude resolve !
 For he could well foresee, the People’s minds
 390 Were then for bold Rebellion all unripe.
 Full well he knew their tardy, sluggish cast,
 Dull for revolt, but daring in th’ extreme
 When fully rous’d by fell Oppression’s rod.

These

- These thoughts accompanied his cooler hours,
 395 Whene'er from mirth retir'd he studious mus'd
 To venture on the project then appear'd,
 Like to a silly and impatient boy,
 Who in too early summer plucks that fruit
 Which would be mellow'd by the autumn suns
 400 To fair perfection: But these soon gave place
 To others more unwise; for when he mix'd
 Among his Friends, whene'er with flatt'ring tongue
 Him they resembled to some Hero fam'd
 In ancient time; whene'er, with wine inflam'd,
 405 They laugh'd at prudence as unmanly fear;
 Then Reason at the throne of Passion fell;
 Then dreaming in the hey-day of the blood,
 Misled by mad Ambition, he would think
 He felt the Crown on his aspiring brow:
 410 O false Ambition! fatal glorious thought!
 Thus he who travels in a land unknown,
 Bold, but imprudent, quits the beaten track,
 To reach an hill which he at distance sees,
 Whose top appears encircled by the clouds,
 415 And whose fair sides luxuriant seem to bloom,

With

- With many a beauteous shrub and flow'r adorn'd.
 Too late, alas ! his vent'rous feet ensnar'd,
 Too late ! in grinning agony of soul,
 He curses oft, lamenting o'er his fate,
 420 The wanton hopes which led him from the path
 That others unaspiring trod secure,
 To tempt a way—perhaps, where serpents hiss ;
 Where savage beasts roam howling o'er the field ;
 Where foaming torrents dash o'er shelving rocks
 425 Impetuous ; or where faithless sands engulph ;
 Or where, like wary foes in ambush hid,
 Sudden resistless whirlwinds sweep around.—

- Their resolution ta'en, 'MONMOUTH, ARGYLE,
 With active vigor instantly prepar'd
 430 Their expedition : strait to *Scotland* sped
 Intemperate ARGYLE ;—with a few Friends
 MONMOUTH embark'd for *England*, among whom
 FLETCHER, a learned Scot, bore most repute :
 From classic books of ancient Greece and Rome
 435 He caught a Patriot fire ; an Orator's,
 A Soldier's fame was his ; and tho' of birth
 Obscure, and tho' his name was undisguis'd
 With vain addition from the breath of Kings,
 Yet the world's eye on him gaz'd full direct,
 440 Which on many a pompous Noble glanc'd.

Soon as had MONMOUTH landed in the West,
 Tumultuous thousands to his standard flew :
 No Men of Rank flew there ; but chiefly they,
 Who at his chariot-wheels had follow'd close,
 445 (When in his Father's life, in solemn pomp,
 He had full oft' paraded thro' their towns)
 Bowing as Persians to the God of Day.

Blest as he was with so divine a form,
 Where, in egregious symmetry, enthron'd
 450 A Grace there sat, which ev'ry one could see,
 But none describe ;—a face, to gaze on which
 A manly beauty charm'd the ravish'd eye,
 And where ten thousand Virtues seem'd to shine
 Beneficently mild ;—an air, address,
 455 So very courteous, yet so great withal ;—
 Such soft politeness, such a gracious smile,
 Such winning dignity ;—to be ador'd,
 'Twas only needful that he should be seen.
 Join'd to these mild endearing qualities,
 460 Which lib'ral Nature gave, MONMOUTH was known
 A noble intrepidity to bear :
 Yet was he, for he fail'd in greater points,
 For such an arduous enterprise unfit.
 The penetration keen, that searches deep

The

- 465 The thoughts of others, with an eagle's eye,
 And knows the various workings of the breast
 Soon as produc'd, and, wife, consigns to none,
 But well-try'd faithful Friends, important trusts ;—
 The sage experience, that foresees effects
- 470 From causes ;—the dauntless strength of mind,
 Which with a cool sagacity prevents
 A small misfortune from appearing great,
 And firmly for its purpose braves the worst ;—
 The eager caution, always on the watch
- 475 To spy defects, that as the light'ning quick
 Seizes and chafes an advantage gain'd ;—
 These were all wanting : Yet, devoid of these,
 He might have trod the calmer path of life
 Belov'd and honor'd much ; he might have sway'd
- 480 Glorious that Sceptre which his birth had giv'n ;—
 But was not form'd to seize the Sov'reign pow'r
 Like CÆSAR, or like CROMWELL—daring names !
 Let shallow barks, upon the glassy breast
 Of Ocean, frolic in the Western gale
- 485 Wanton and careless ;—let them spread abroad
 Their flimsy sails to catch the gentle breath
 Of Zephyr, with their streamers all display'd,
 With oars from dulcet music beating time,
 Adown the tide triumphant make their way :

But,

- 490 But, when rough Boreas furious rushes forth,
 All clad in Gorgon-terrors as a robe,
 And casts the billows' spray in fleety show'r ;—
 When he more hideous howls than midnight yell
 Of hungry wolves, to traveller forlorn
 495 Upon the Alps, gaunt tenants of the wild !
 And the dun clouds amid the troubled air
 Whirls discontinuous, which anon descend
 Huge cataracts, as if another sea
 Were bursting from above, with that below
 500 To mingle and unite,—when th' elements
 Of water, air, scowl adverse ;—tumult dread !
 Then cautious let them seek the shore ; for then
 None but the oak-rib'd vessel braves the storm :
 When the grim waves aloft their foaming heads
 505 Contort, then thro' the liquid hills she vaults :
 Unshatter'd, undeform'd, unriv'n, unscath'd,
 When loud hoarse thunders roar, blue light'nings flash,
 And Nature all convuls'd the hurley joins—
 Tremendous pomp ! Horror magnificent !

END OF THE FIRST CANTO.